

## WOMEN ADOPT A BOY.

Victor Thompson's Mother Now is the Little Victor Thompson of Chicago. Whole Thursday City of Chicago. Little Victor Thompson has recently acquired 84 adoptive mothers over and above the one which the average small boy loves and disobeys. He is the adoptive child of the Thursday club of the South Side, and it has been suggested that his name be changed to V. Thompson Thursday. This is probably the first case in which a child has ever been legally adopted by a secular society, but he is the "club child," watched over and supported by it, and the members are as responsible for his upbringing as were his own parents.

The Thursday is a charitable club organized to help children. While on a visit to the Waifs' mission center of the neighborhood, Victor, his bright eyes and clever replies to her questions aroused her interest. He said he was not happy in the mission, and after the clubwoman had investigated his family and found that he was the child of a respectable widow she took him to a meeting of the club. It was proposed that he become the ward of the club and be educated and cared for at its expense. The motion was carried, and papers of adoption were made out in the usual form and signed by the secretary. He was placed immediately in the Illinois Training school at Glenwood, where he now is. Like other mothers, the club thinks that it is brighter and better than the children of other people, and it looks forward to the time when the president of the United States will be Victor Thursday, the child of a poor but honest parent and the adoptive son of the Thursday club.

Victor is only eight years old, yet he can read and write and has chosen his profession. He says that he will be a lawyer. He recently wrote a letter to the president, Miss Mabel Reed of 3124 Prairie avenue. In it he told of his life at the training school and ended by saying: "I want to thank the Thursday club for adopting me. I am very much obliged to the young ladies, and I am going to get my lessons and be a good boy, so they will be proud of their little boy." The matron added a postscript, saying that the wording and thoughts in the letter were all his own.—Chicago Record.

Early Victorian Revival. There can be no doubt at all, says Lady's Pictorial, that we are doomed to early Victorian fashions this spring and summer. Even in our houses we are to have the old fashioned chintzes and gilt chairs and heavy cut glassware in vogue half a century ago, and already some of the hideous old colors have made their appearance in the shop windows. But all the old fashions were not ugly. The pretty sprigged muslins with moss roses and forget-me-nots running riot over them, in which the maidens of 50 years or so ago looked so bewitching, were certainly charming, and their revival is most welcome. Those were the days of fluttering frills and sweet daintiness of dress, and one is heartily glad to turn awhile to avoid simplicity. It will be delightful if only we have a summer worthy of this auspicious year to see women about in these pretty, fresh looking muslins, which somehow seem to call to remembrance the odor of sweet lavender and southern wood, and the moss roses of old fashioned gardens.

Sara D. Jenkins. Mrs. Sara D. Jenkins of The Popular Educator possesses the qualifications of the ideal school journalist. Mrs. Jenkins, says the New York Tribune, combines with a ripe scholarship and professional training a natural power to see clearly all the relations of a subject and has the skill to present them simply and attractively so as to arouse enthusiasm in her pupils and insure the best results. She has had an extensive experience as teacher, first in Oswego, then at the Girls' High and Normal schools in Boston, the principalship of the Cincinnati Training school, professorship in the New York College for the Training of Teachers, a course of study in Cornell, and of study and travel abroad, all of which she brings to assist her work in the editing of The Popular Educator.

Women Delegates. For the first time in the history of organized labor in Kansas City two women have appeared on the floor of the Building Trades council of delegates. They were representatives of the ladies' auxiliary and seemed to enjoy exercising their full delegated power. The male members enjoyed the advent of the new delegates. The two women members did not participate in the discussions, but took a deep interest in everything that went on.

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## A BEAR STORY.

The Most Wonderful Escape of a Hunter Who Was Up a Tree.

They were spinning yarns of the chase, and this was the contribution of the "club child." "After a pretty hard campaign I went, with a hunting party, to the upper peninsula. I'm not a leather stocker or a Daniel Boone with a rifle, but I'm far from having to go inside and close the doors in order to hit a bear. I'd brought down a deer and bagged a few amount of small game, but wanted a bear. One morning I had tramped an unusual distance from camp and suddenly came upon three half grown cubs rolling and tumbling over each other in play. I shot one, and the other two beat a clumsy retreat. Setting my gun against a tree, I reached my cub while he was still kicking. "Hearing a noise, I whirled around to find the mother coming at me, her mouth wide open and her eyes glaring. There was no chance to reach the rifle. I'm no sprinter and took the only alternative by climbing up a tall pine tree. She stopped a minute to examine the victim of my shot and was more engaged than ever as she came climbing after me. Once in the tattered top of that pine, I did some faster thinking, gentlemen, than I ever did on any question of state. The bear was coming and losing no time. I was without a weapon of any kind. It looked as though ruin had the drop.

"But a man in my predicament overlooks no chances. In my vest pocket I had a well filled match safe. In my hip pocket was a pint of brandy, minus one moderate nip. In my hunting jacket was a bunch of tow. I saturated that with brandy and, as the bear approached, I ignited her with the remainder. Dividing the tow so as to have two shots, I lit the first half and dropped it on the bear. I didn't need the other half. There was a flash of light, as though a pan of powder had been ignited. The air was filled with the odor of burning hair. The bear let go and fell down because it was quicker. Then she left a fiery streak toward the horizon and made more noise than any ordinary thunderstorm."—Detroit Free Press.

## KNEW HUMAN NATURE.

How Two Black Niggers Turned Their Knowledge to Good Account.

Near one of the gates at the Union station as the long train from Chicago rolled in stood an old colored man. He was bent under time's burden, and it was easy to imagine that he was one of those relics of the south, one of those picturesque characters of old plantation life, that come live only in the memory. The great engine was puffing after its long run, and amid the bustle and confusion of the station the old man seemed bewildered. Then as the passenger cars came to a halt, he saw a little act of kindness that touched a tender chord of sympathy in more than one heart.

Another colored man, who looked as if he might be a porter, stepped up and slipped a quarter in the old man's hand. Then he quickly made his way off again, looking half ashamed at his action. The old man stood looking at the quarter, with a smile on his wrinkled old face, and the next man placed another silver piece in his hand. The other passengers followed suit, and the old man came to the end of the show of coin.

Just then the policeman on duty at the station saw the old fellow and started toward him, but with more agility than one would have given him credit for the old man ran in among the crowd and was lost.

Five minutes later two men were sitting in a saloon in Seventeenth street. They were counting over a pile of small coins.

"Fosh seventy-five, he bel Golly, grant dad, didn't tell yer it'd be such a lot?" "Pears lak all yer had ter do was kinder mek der white folks 'shamed lak, and dey jes' scamrel ovver demselves ter get a pore old man money. He bel no such weak for us, and dey comes lak dat."—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

## Phosphorescent Diamonds.

The French investigator M. Maestri arranged a dark room, in which a collection of 150 diamonds was placed. On one side was an attenuating current arc lamp. The lens was covered with violet colored glass, so that only ultra violet rays were thrown on the diamonds, among which were several old Indian, Brazilian and Cape stones, and some from the South Africa diggings. Of the entire collection only three diamonds were phosphorescent. A Brazilian stone of 15 carats and another of 8 carats showed this property in a marked degree. They were perfectly white, with a bluish tint. The phosphorescence lasted for 15 minutes after exposure, gradually lessening in intensity. Pure white light was used, resulting in a less beautiful experiment, although phosphorescence was apparent. This test demonstrated that some diamonds, but not all, possess the power of absorbing light and emitting it in the dark.

## Smoking in Germany.

Smoking in Germany is not a pastime; it is an art and an art that has grouped about it a respectable number of industries. Every smoker carries a cigar case, a cigar clipper, a matchbox and usually a little leather box for the cigar tips. The art is collected by a society organized for the purpose in each province and are sold to the manufacturer for the benefit of charitable institutions.

In prison Boethius composed his work on the consolations of philosophy and Grotius wrote his commentary on St. Matthew, with other works. The detail of his allotment of time to different studies during his confinement is very instructive.

The sum raised by the government of Mexico from the manufacture of tequila, one of the native intoxicants, is about \$500,000 annually.

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## A COSTLY PORTRAIT.

The Price Made Him Gasp, but He Paid and Said Nothing.

Some years ago, when Benjamin Constant came over to this country especially to paint the portrait of a well known New York woman, several other persons took advantage of his being here and gave him orders for their portraits. Among these was a well known man. Shortly after this latter likeness was completed a wealthy westerner who happened to be in this city was entertained at the house of the New Yorker. The westerner saw the portrait and much admired it. "My wife wants me to get my portrait painted," he said. "That's one reason why I'm in New York. I wonder if this French fellow wouldn't do mine too." His host assured him that in all probability the "French fellow" would be only too delighted. Before long the westerner was experiencing all the glory and honor of "sitting for his portrait."

One day some time after this, but before the picture was finished, the westerner was again entertained by his New York friend. The portrait was naturally referred to. "By the way," remarked the westerner, "how much did he charge for your picture?" "Forty-five hundred dollars," was the answer. "Why?" But the westerner was beyond speech. Pale and breathless, he leaned back in his chair, and when he did speak it was to inquire as to terms, and that he had never dreamed that the portrait's price would be more than \$100. What worried him most was what his wife would say. But the old fellow was sure. He first bound the New Yorker over to temporary secrecy, after which he proceeded to go through those sittings to the bitter end without a murmur or a question as to the ultimate cost. Benjamin Constant never knew that the bill for \$5,000 (the westerner's portrait was larger than the New Yorker's) was presented later came the slightest ripple upon the emotional surface of his patron. But in a certain western home there today hangs a painting the price of which has never yet been revealed to the mistress of the house.—New York Sun.

HOW TALC IS QUARRIED.  
Where It Comes From and the Manner of Sending It to Market.

At Luzerne, in the upper valley of the Arizaga, talc is quarried on an extensive scale in the granite of St. Bartolomey, a mountain 7,700 feet high and about 30 miles from the main chain of the Pyrenees. The quarries, which are situated about two miles from the summit and 5,900 feet above sea level, are opened in a bedded series of inclined planes, between the main chain and the lower strata above, which has been a fault for about 2,000 yards in a north and south direction, and is about 60 degrees to the east, the thickness varying from 180 to 1,000 feet, as does also the composition. Masses of limestone and granite, the latter often of considerable size, are frequently included in the silicate of magnesia, which also contains some alumina.

The best rock is of a brilliant white color and feels greasy to the touch when ground to fine powder. The principal quarry, at Tremozin, is worked in the open, across the direction of the bed, forming two or three terraces 50 feet high, the surface covering, 8 to 10 feet thick, having been first stripped. The stuff broken is carried by a level, in the bottom of the quarry, driven in the foot wall of the vein to the valley of Axiat, whence it is hauled in bullock wagons about 12 miles to the works of Luzerne, where a water power of 90 horsepower is obtained from the Arizaga. The mechanical preparation includes sizing by sieves, driving in a rotating cylinder furnace, breaking, grinding and sifting.

Nearly the whole of the product is converted into powder, only a small part being made into pencils for marking out workmen's metal or sold in the lump form.—Colliery Guardian.

Reversing Nature.  
The reversibility of the physical processes of nature has lately been the subject of interesting comment. Lord Kelvin, for example, has been credited with saying that all of them, no matter how complex they might appear to the human senses, could in reality be the motions of invisible molecules, and if, therefore, by some means, all these molecules could, at the same time, be made to move in the opposite direction, and each with the same velocity that it possessed at the moment, all the world would begin and continue to move backward; water would flow up the sides of cliffs, rivers would run upward from the sea, rain would rise, full blown flowers would shrink into buds and plants divide into seedlings, man himself would become young again, passing from old age to infancy. Just what kind of pictures such a topsy-turvy world would present may be seen with a kinesthetic imagination.

Professor Quercus, according to report, has made observations in this line, and some time ago communicated them to the French Academy of Science.—Classier's Magazine.

What They Said Wouldn't Read Well.  
"Jim Sweeney has just returned from a bicycle ride around the world. He is going to write a book about it."  
"What is he going to call it?"  
"People I have run up against."—Odds and Ends.

The little town of Nazareth, in Palestine, has no fewer than twelve hospitals, 7 convents and 12 schools under European supervision.

In the royal family it is always the queen who first kisses the wife after her marriage, not the newly made husband.

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